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**U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY  
ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTEES AT USTR**

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today announced selections for two key positions at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative: the nomination of Peter L. Scher to be Special Trade Ambassador for Agriculture and the appointment of Susan G. Esserman as General Counsel.

“Even as our exports of agricultural products hit a new record at nearly \$60 billion last year, I sought to create the position of Special Trade Ambassador for Agriculture to elevate attention to an ever-increasing number of agricultural trade issues,” said U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. “Peter Scher will bring a strong combination of talent and experience to meet a series of critical challenges in opening international markets to our agricultural products. A key priority will be to ensure further opening of China’s market to U.S. agricultural exports. In addition, we will fight every application of trade barriers such as unfair sanitary and phytosanitary standards and ensure that new agricultural products which employ biotechnology are not subject to arbitrary market barriers.”

Mr. Scher most recently held the position of Chief of Staff to Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, and previously served as Chief of Staff to Ambassador Kantor at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. During his previous tenure with USTR he was a principal advisor to Ambassador Kantor during a number of critical trade negotiations, including negotiations with the EU and the Russian Federation regarding restrictions on agricultural imports. Prior to joining the Clinton Administration, Mr. Scher served as the Chief of Staff to Senator Max Baucus, Chairman of the U.S Senate Subcommittee on International Trade, and as Majority Staff Director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Before joining government

service, Mr. Scher practiced law with Keck, Mahin and Cate. Mr. Scher holds a J.D. from the Washington College of Law at The American University and a B.A. from The American University.

“I am pleased also to announce Susan Esserman’s appointment as General Counsel,” Barshefsky said. “I will rely on her as a strategist, as well as her legal skills and enforcement background. She is an extraordinary trade lawyer with a wealth of experience who arrives here at a critical moment when we are expanding our enforcement initiatives at the WTO, bilaterally and through a wide application of our trade laws. The United States has initiated more cases than any other Member of the WTO and we will continue to aggressively utilize the WTO’s dispute settlement process to protect U.S. trade interests.”

Ms. Esserman most recently served as the Acting General Counsel at the Department of Commerce. Prior to holding that position, she was the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration where she was responsible for enforcement and development of policy relating to the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws. She played a lead role on behalf of the Administration in connection with the GATT legislation involving these areas and revamped and streamlined the implementing regulations. Before joining the Clinton Administration in 1993, Ms. Esserman was a Partner at Steptoe and Johnson where she specialized in international trade law, policy, and litigation. She also served as a law clerk for United States District Judge Oliver Gasch. Ms. Esserman holds a J.D. from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Wellesley College.

"I am pleased that these tremendously talented people have agreed to serve at USTR. They offer important skills toward meeting the trade challenges immediately in front of us. Individually, their depth of knowledge and creativity will complement and enhance an already impressive team at USTR," said Barshefsky.